

Summary
1/11/10 School Committee Meeting

- **Presentation of MASS Awards for Academic Excellence/Blumer Book Awards**

Interim Superintendent Jim Marini presented the MASS Awards for Academic Excellence, in conjunction with former Superintendent Irwin Blumer, who presented the Annual Blumer Book Awards. This year's book selection was *True Compass: A Memoir*, by Edward M. Kennedy. The four outstanding students to receive this award were commended for their academic excellence and the myriad of extra-curricular activities in which they are involved:

Naomi Genuth	Newton North High School
Nathan Harris	Newton North High School
Luckmini Liyanage	Newton South High School
Meghna Nandi	Newton South High School

- **Superintendent's Report**

Jim Marini noted that in an effort to streamline School Committee meetings and spend more time on discussion items, he will be delivering a very brief synopsis on the monthly reports. Only if there are major differences in any given month will they take these up as a discussion item. The first report presented was the Student Services Report, which provides the monthly statistics. He noted that the programs are running well and that this is always a dynamic area. Committee members requested input from the administration re: possible trends in student populations that the Committee should be made aware of for future program and budget discussions. The next topic was the recent reorganization of the Transportation Department following two retirements resulting in a \$34,700 savings. The third item had to do with concerns around transportation/safety issues at Newton Corner. A review of policy around bus fees, possible waivers and looking at other safety areas in the City will be needed. Prompt attention to this issue is imperative and this item will be brought back at the next meeting.

- **FY10 Budget Report**

Sandy Guryan noted that as of 12/28/09, the district has spent \$70,867,386 or 43% of the annual budget. Projected year-end based on current information is a positive balance of \$43,969. The consultant has been hired to review the Food Service program and is currently in the data-gathering stage and will be visiting schools to view the programs and meet with staff. Updates will be forthcoming.

- **Class Size Report**

Sandy Guryan presented the report, which shows elementary class sizes increasing from 21.9 students last year to 22.0 this year. Middle schools average team size increased from 87 to 90. At the high schools, the number of classes of 25 or more students in the five major subjects decreased from 217 to 189, with the average class size for seniors in major subjects decreasing from 21.4 to 21.3. Elementary and high school show a decrease in the number of classes with 25 or more students while middle schools remained the same. Classes of less than 20 increased at the elementary and high school level and decreased at the middle schools. An additional 11.4 elementary aides were added this year to address class size issues at a number of schools. Improvements were noted in parity between the two high schools.

- **Interim Enrollment and Space Needs Report**

Patricia Kelly, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, reported that she met with every principal to discuss space needs in the elementary schools. Burr, Horace Mann, Mason-Rice and Zervas are in the most immediate need. They are reviewing various options such as modifying schedules, interior construction, team teaching, sharing and/or recapturing current space used by aftercare programs, relocation of libraries and offices and art on a cart. Also under consideration will be out-of-district placements, parental choice zones, raising class size and additions supports in the classroom. Principals Cindy Bencal, Audrey Peller and Mark Springer, representing the elementary schools, were present to discuss space issues in their buildings and answer questions. Principals Jen Price and Joel Stenbridge did the same for the high schools. Paul Stein, Deputy Superintendent, represented the middle schools.

- **Naming of Roadway at Newton North High School**

This is the first recommendation of the newly formed Newton North Naming Committee proposing changing "Ceremonial Drive" to "Tiger Drive". After some discussion the Committee requested additional student input on the proposal prior to voting. Jen Price stated that she will obtain student input from various sources. A request was made to Mayor Warren to convene the Newton North High School Liaison Committee to discuss the proposed name with that group as well.

- **Admissions Policy for Career & Vocational Technical Education**

The most recent Coordinated Program Review by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) found Newton to be out of compliance with regard to the Admissions Policy. This has since been updated and Diana Robbins, Director of Career & Technical Education, presented the information. The Committee reviewed the new policy

and will vote at the next meeting. It was also noted that there are capacity issues in some of the programs resulting in students being denied admittance. Further discussion around this issue will be held during budget deliberations.

- **Race to the Top Program**

DESE is requiring local education agencies to have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the superintendent, school committee chair and president of the teachers union to become eligible to participate in the application for this grant program. This is a competitive grant and Massachusetts will learn the outcome in April. This would make the district eligible for four consecutive years of additional Title 1 funds of at least \$75,000 to initiate projects to address teacher and principal effectiveness and use data to inform instruction. The activities are consistent with Newton's Strategic Plan. Participation also positions the district to be eligible for additional competitive funds. While the DESE insists that nothing in the MOU compromises contracts with unions, the Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA) has developed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOE) that speaks explicitly about any party being able to withdraw at any time and that all must collaborate and agree, which is consistent with the MOU. The Committee voted to authorize the Chair to sign the MOU and MOE.

- **Update on Superintendent Search**

Reenie Murphy, Co-Chairperson of the Superintendent Search Committee, provided a brief synopsis of the work to date. The Search Committee will meet next Monday to review the Leadership Profile, which the consultants have developed following the sessions with the focus groups. This document outlines the characteristics the community seeks in a new superintendent. She then reviewed the calendar and noted that they remain on track in terms of timeframe.

- **Private School Transportation**

Sandy Guryan provided follow up on this topic from the last meeting. She confirmed the limited obligations for private school busing based on distances. Possible cost savings of reducing three buses offset by fee collections would result in a net savings of \$193,840. The Committee asked that staff reach out to the private schools to have informal conversations and that private school parents be formally notified that this topic is being discussed. Action on any possible changes will occur during budget deliberations, as they view the various tradeoffs and choices.

- **Vote to Reappoint Representative to Citizens Committee on Energy**

The Committee voted to reappoint Eric Olson as their representative to the Citizens Committee on Energy for another three year term.

Summary
1/25/10 School Committee Meeting

- **Superintendent's Report**

Interim Superintendent Jim Marini noted that there are several items to address under his report this evening. The first is the sad announcement of the sudden passing of Ray Sylvester, 6th grade Learning Center teacher at Bigelow Middle School, who would have reached his 40th year working for the system in September. The crisis team has been activated to offer support to students and staff. Jim offered condolences to the family on behalf of the entire school system.

Next was the monthly Operations Report, in which he outlined the three major topics: 1.) Single stream recycling will begin in February in all school buildings; 2.) Despite the cold weather this year frozen pipes have been kept to a minimum due to the diligence of the custodial staff and quick response of Fraser Engineering; and 3.) Food Service year-end financial projections indicate the program is within \$24, 671 of meeting the target budget. Committee members raised questions about a.) phase 3 of Noresco, which Mike will provide in the next report; b.) timing of modulars, which Mike indicated are on schedule and a full report will be made at the next meeting; and c.) number of work orders, which Mike stated are decreasing, especially in HVAC, as a result of preventative maintenance and the work of Josh Morse.

Jim next reported on the State Budget, in which the Governor indicated that he would preserve local aid and Chapter 70 funding. However, there are still other funding sources that need to be watched. In terms of the school system, he has asked every program director to look for savings, consolidation, and cuts as they develop their budgets.

The next topic was the monthly Personnel Report, which outlines staff appointments, resignations, retirements, leaves of absence, professional teacher status, and transfers to high training levels.

Finally, he asked Paul Stein, Deputy Superintendent, to provide an update on the Special Education (SPED) review. Paul indicated that interviews have been conducted and he is now in the process of doing background checks. They are very close to choosing a firm to conduct the study.

- **Newton North High School**

Heidi Black, Administrator of High School Construction and Strategic Planning, and Trip Elmore, Project Manager for Turner Construction, gave a progress report on the status of the new high school along with a Powerpoint presentation depicting the various spaces. They are currently working on the furniture and technology needs and the schedule is on time. In terms of the demolition of the old building and construction of the fields, they are hoping that the demolition will be completed by the end of winter 2011, landscaping will take place in the spring of 2010 and the spring of 2011, and the soccer and multipurpose fields will be completed by the fall of 2010 and the baseball fields and final parking lots will be constructed after demolition. However, no one can predict what they might find in the demolition stage, which will present its own host of problems. Savings in some areas in the project appear to cover the additional costs of demolition

over budget. Total cost of demolition is projected at \$10million. Committee members expressed appreciation for the light and airiness of the facility and how that will have a positive impact on education.

The Mayor noted that in addition to this being a fantastic school, it should also be a wonderful resource for the entire community.

- **Superintendent Search**

Reenie Murphy and Claire Sokoloff, Chairs of the Superintendent Search Committee, provided an update on that status of the work to date. Included in tonight's materials is the *Superintendent Leadership Profile Report*. This is an instrument that was written by the search consultants with input from the search committee and the school committee. In addition, they have a district profile and summary of perceived strengths and challenges facing Newton also culled from the focus groups and surveys. These documents will be made available to all candidates and are on line. The Search Committee has named a nine-person subcommittee to conduct the preliminary screening of candidates put forth by the search consultants. They will then select up to three candidates, who will each spend a day in Newton (2,23, 2/24, 2/25) in interviews, visiting schools, meeting with staff, and finishing up with an evening public community forum. On Friday, 2/26, the School Committee will meet in open session in the morning to deliberate and choose the finalist. The month of March will be spent on reference checks, a site visit, and contract negotiations.

- **Use of School Buildings (USB)**

Michael Cronin, Chief of Operations, reported on the extensive review of the USB permit program and recommendations. Current policy was approved in 1993, reviewed and confirmed in 2000, and updated with increased fees in various areas in 2006 and 2009. Recommendations for FY11 are 1.) No fee increase for A permit users (school, community education, PTO); 2.) No fee increase for B permit users (municipal and Newton community groups, after care) except for school vacation periods for after care (per diem rate increase from \$130 to \$185); 3.) No fee increase for C permit users (private, business and non-Newton groups) except for reducing discounts to foreign language school users to bridge the gap between fees charged to those schools and other Permit users. Some Committee members expressed the opinion that the system should not be subsidizing fees but rather cover all costs. Others felt that moving more slowly in that direction, such as they have been doing, is sufficient.

- **Private School Transportation**

Jim Marini recommended the development of a task force to conduct a more thorough analysis of this matter, as well as continuing their ongoing informal discussions with the headmasters. In addition, they may want to have a discussion and input from the families that will be impacted.

- **Safety Issue re: Transportation (Newton Corner)**

This issue was raised at the last meeting. Included in tonight's material is a review of the policy around bus fees, waivers, and maps of the safety zones including bus stops. After a full review, the Superintendent is not recommending exemptions to the policy. While he acknowledges the safety concerns, he

also noted equity issues associated with other safety zones and areas of the City where students pay a fee to be transported. He does want to make sure that the families involved are well aware of the waiver process. Concern was raised by some Committee members around the severity of the danger in this area and that free bus passes should be provided. The Mayor suggested a meeting with the Newton Corner families that would be impacted prior to the Committee taking a final vote.

- **Admissions Policy for Career & Vocational Technical Education**

The Committee discussed this at the last meeting and voted to approve the policy.

- **Grants**

The Committee voted to accept the grants totaling \$4,200 (Big Yellow School Bus, Just Be Boys Empowerment, Italian Language Education).

- **Appointment to Newton Child Care Commission**

The Committee voted to reappoint Claire Sokoloff (School Committee representative) and Linda Ross (School Department representative), and appoint Donna Busa (Family Child Care representative) to the Newton Child Care Commission (effective terms January 2010 – January 2012).

- **Subcommittee/Liaison Reports**

Public Engagement Subcommittee: Reenie Murphy mentioned that the Chair and Vice chair have been having regular meetings with the Mayor and Board of Aldermen President and Vice President. The school visits have started and the website will soon have a “face-lift,” including a page dedicated to the superintendent search. The subcommittee will be meeting Friday to review next steps.

Negotiations Subcommittee: Jonathan Yeo noted that they will be reconvening meetings on contract negotiations with the Newton Teachers Association (NTA) on 2/4.

Summary
2/8/10 School Committee Meeting

- **Superintendent's Report**

Jim Marini presented the Student Services Report. Changes since last month's report include a 3.4 increase in special education (SPED) aides, as a result of additional student needs and vacancy replacements. Total enrollment in preschool is 231 (72 students with special needs, 71 without special needs and 88 receiving related services). There are 154 students placed out-of-district and this has decreased from last month. There are 458 students receiving transportation (128 to private placements and 329 within the system), which has increased since last month.

The next topic was the status of the hiring of the SPED consultant, who will review the programs and make recommendations regarding improvements and economies, as well as highlighting what Newton is doing well. Interviews have been held and reference checks are occurring. They hope to have someone on board very soon to begin this work.

The final topic had to do with the FY11 budget. Given there is only a \$1.6 million allocation, in order to just retain the same service there would be a \$6 million gap. They plan to revisit every area of the budget in an attempt to find savings and creative ways of offering programs at less cost including reorganization of staff, outsourcing Food Services, and increasing user fees to name a few. This is still not going to close the gap and the only place that will be left to go to is personnel, which means larger class sizes.

Mayor Warren noted that the municipal side is facing a \$3-\$5 million gap, so added to the school system they are looking at a possible total gap of \$11 million. Local aide funding from the State will be critical. He has begun a series of town meetings to keep people informed and get feedback from citizens.

- **FY10 Budget Report**

Sandy Guryan, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Finance & Planning, noted that as of 1/27/09, the district has spent \$83,107,995, or 50% of the annual budget. Projected year-end based on current information is a positive balance of \$35,455. Continued savings in salaries and utilities serve to offset increases in health insurance, unemployment and SPED. The forecast for salaries and benefits is within 0.2% of budget.

- **Update on Superintendent Search**

Reenie Murphy provided an update on the status of the Superintendent Search. A subgroup of the Search Committee will be interviewing preliminary candidates this week. On 2/16, at 8:30 a.m., in the Frazier Room they will be holding a

special public meeting to announce the finalists. The following week the School Committee and Search Committee will each interview the finalists in public meetings and evening forums will be held at Day Middle School for the public to meet and ask questions of the candidates. At that time, the candidates will also tour some schools and meet with the Superintendent and some Central Staff members. New TV plans to broadcast as many of these meetings as possible. They are scheduled to announce the finalist in public on 2/26, at 8:30 a.m., in the Frazier Room.

- **Elementary Space Needs**

Patricia Kelly, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, presented the report, which reviews the space issues and possible solutions at the four schools with the greatest need (Burr, Horace Mann, Mason-Rice, Zervas). The following staff members discussed specific issues in each building and answered questions: Principals Mark Springer, Cindy Bencal, Steve Griffin and Gregg Hurray, Chief of Operations Mike Cronin, and Heidi Black, Administrator of High School Construction & Strategic Planning. Recommendations include continuing the policy of giving the school department control over the optional and out-of-district zones, moving forward on the Long-Range Facilities Plan, having principals meet with their space committees to develop plans that work for each individual community, and work with the Director of Operations to evaluate the cost of construction at Burr, Horace Mann and Mason-Rice now so that they can begin planning ahead. The specifics with regard to possible solutions for each of these four schools for 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 are outlined in the report.

- **Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)**

Mike Cronin gave a status report on the items in the CIP. A question was raised regarding the timeline of the Burr windows and Mike replied that he has confidence in this contractor, whom they have used in other buildings, and believes it will be done on time. A question was raised about the seating in the Day Middle School auditorium and Mike responded that at the present time there could be more pressing needs around roof repairs. Mike will report back to the committee on this. Another question was raised regarding Countryside's drainage issue. Mike stated that they are working with the Department of Public Works (DPW) on re-plumbing the catch basin.

- **Naming of Roadway at Newton North High School**

The Newton North Naming Committee has requested that the School Committee approve the change of name of Ceremonial Drive to Tiger Drive. The issue was discussed at a previous meeting and the Committee requested additional input from students and the Newton North Liaison Committee, both of which have been received and are in support of the proposal. The Committee then voted to approve the request.

- **Use of School Buildings Fees**

This topic was discussed at the last meeting. The Committee voted to approve the recommendations for an increase in use of school buildings fees, as outlined in the 1/25/10 memorandum:

Foreign Language Schools – reduce discounts and increase fees to foreign language school users to bridge the gap between fees charged to those schools and other permit users.

After Care Programs – to increase the vacation week daily rate from \$130 to \$185 per day.

- **Donations**

The Committee voted to accept a \$100 donation from Lueders Environmental, Inc. for the school system and a donation of a scenery turntable for the theater arts program at Newton South.

- **Grants**

The Committee voted to accept the grants (Perkins Equipment, Cultural Trips for Students of the Newton METCO Program) totaling \$36,455.

Summary
2/22/10 School Committee Meeting

- **Superintendent's Report**

Interim Superintendent Jim Marini discussed three topics under the Superintendent's Report:

Monthly Operations Report: 1.) Summer project planning is underway; 2.) Three new trend charts are included in the material – electrical, plumbing and HVAC. There has been a slight reduction in plumbing and electrical work orders and a small spike in HVAC. Future reporting of preventative maintenance is being considered.

Personnel Report: Outlines staff appointments, resignations, retirements, leaves of absence, professional teacher status, and transfers to high training levels.

FY11 Budget: Due to the timing of the superintendent and principal interviews, the presentation of the budget is being moved from Monday, 3/1 to Thursday, 3/4, at Day Middle School Auditorium, 7:00 p.m. The budget will reflect the needs of the school system while operating within the fiscal reality as much as possible. A review of all areas to identify cost reductions is underway. The proposed budget is likely to be higher than the allocation and will produce a gap, but will also include scenarios to bridge the gap if necessary. The Mayor noted how critical level funding of local aide will be this year in terms of maintaining programs and he encouraged people to contact their legislators.

- **Food Service Update**

Sandy Guryan, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Finance & Planning, presented the background on this subject. Various steps have been taken to reduce the food service subsidy in this fiscal year. These included refining techniques in purchasing, upgrading procedures, eliminating lunch attendant positions and hiring a consultant to provide an in-depth look at the operations. Sandy introduced John Ledwick, Senior Consultant for Edvocate, who presented the findings from his report on the food service program. While there are some opportunities to reduce costs in the area of purchasing, the current program is not able to operate within a manageable subsidy because of the burden the labor contract places on the program. The only way for the program to be run with no financial impact to the budget is either through an extensive reworking of the labor contract or to sub the entire program out to an outside contractor. Committee members asked questions to clarify the information. Next steps are to digest tonight's materials and meet with the union, as required under collective bargaining. A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be prepared for distribution to private food service companies this spring.

- **Countryside-Peirce Pilot Program**

Patricia Kelly, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, introduced the participants from Countryside and Pierce Elementary Schools present this evening to update the Committee on the pilot programs started this year at these two schools. The pilots are designed to increase common planning time at each grade level. Participants included the following: Peirce: Principal Emily Ostrower and teachers Jenna Ceddia, Kelly Champagne, Leslie Negri, Erin Tracey, Martha Mitchell; Countryside: Principal Ruth Chapman and teachers Michelle Powers, Kristina Civali, Amanda Dickinson, and Jen Tomaneng. In a Memorandum of Agreement with the Newton Teachers Association, they eliminated the Thursday Afternoon Program in the schedule and replaced it with common planning time. They discussed the specifics of the programs, benefits of the new configuration, challenges and obstacles, outcomes, analyzing student work, pre and post assessments, differentiation, and student performance data. Other schools are interested in this work and discussions hopefully will continue between School Committee and the NTA in terms of continuation of these pilot programs and moving forward in small increments.

- **Private School Transportation**

The Committee has been discussing this topic for the past two months and tonight's material includes three recommendations. 1.) Make no changes. In this case the Rashi School bus is eliminated because they are moving outside of Newton and will result in a \$65,480 savings; 2.) Further revise bus routes so that Solomon Schechter School utilizes three vs. four buses resulting in slightly longer bus rides of 10-15 minutes in the morning and afternoons and a savings of \$132,260; 3.) Eliminate all remaining private school transportation, which would impact Solomon Schechter, Mt. Alvernia Academy, Jackson School, and Brimmer and May, for a savings of \$260,620 and would require a change in transportation policy. The FY11 budget under development assumes Option 2. The outreach with private schools will continue throughout the budget process.

- **Superintendent Search**

Reenie Murphy and Claire Sokoloff, Chairs of the Superintendent Search Committee, provided an update on the search process including schedule, feedback forms and the three candidate interviews being held this week.

- **Donation**

The Committee voted to accept a donation of a portable ENO interactive board, short throw projector, and mobile tablet from ADTECH (valued at \$3,699.50) and an interactive white board and short throw projector along with parts and installation time, as well as two hours of training, from Valley Communications (valued at \$5,804.32).

Summary
3/8/10 School Committee Meeting

- **Superintendent's Report**

Jim Marini presented the Student Services Report. As a result of staff resignations and reassignments, there are no changes in the number of special education (SPED) aides. There are 158 students placed out-of-district and 471 receiving transportation. The variance in this area has slightly increased as a result of student needs. As of 3/4/10, there are 11 students enrolled at Central High School, with two additional referrals.

A study group has been formed to review the feasibility of full-day kindergarten and will be led by Patricia Kelly, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education. The committee will address issues around space, costs and scheduling and will be advisory only in nature and will not make recommendations.

- **Report on Data Initiative**

Shelley Chamberlain, Director of Information Technology, Carol Palmer, Data & Assessment Specialist, and Bobbi Gerlits, Data Analyst, presented the report. Background: In 2006, five elementary school principals and teachers, along with the Superintendent of Curriculum & Assessment, attended the Data Wise Conference at Harvard University to learn about using student assessment data to inform instruction. Several schools started data teams following that conference and have since used the data and evaluations to help make informed decisions about instructional practices/programs or interventions to support student learning. In FY09, the district made a commitment to begin to coordinate efforts and target resources to use data effectively and efficiently to assess efforts to narrow the achievement gap, differentiate instruction, share effective interventions, communicate data districtwide, integrate information systems, ensure data accuracy and conduct effective program evaluations. Last year a small group of administrators and teachers formed the District Data Team to provide oversight and support for the initiative. The first recommendation was to hire Bobbi, a program evaluation specialist, to focus on professional development for data use and program evaluation. She works closely with Carol, whose responsibility is the administration and analysis of MCAS data. Their collaboration is instrumental in conducting the systemwide DATA Audit that is part of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) grant with the ACCEPT Collaborative. Newton is participating in The Data Warehouse, which is a collaborative effort of DESE and local school districts. This is a free tool available to all districts that supports longitudinal data analysis and reporting and has the ability for districts to load local data. They concluded with discussion and questions around data audit findings and next steps. Some remarks by the Committee included the need to emphasize that the goal is for the data to translate to improvements in teaching and not to overload staff. The system needs to be user-friendly and focus on making sure it moves the Strategic Plan forward. Committee members were impressed by the amount of progress made in this area in such a short time.

- **FY10 Budget Report**

Sandy Guryan, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Finance & Planning, noted that as of 2/26/09, the district has spent \$97,134,762, or 59% of the annual budget. Projected year-end based on current information is a positive balance of \$26,989. Continued savings in salaries and utilities serve to offset increases in health insurance, unemployment and SPED. The forecast for salaries and benefits is within 0.2% of budget.

- **FY11 Budget Discussion**

Jim Marini presented opening remarks on the budget. Developing this budget in light of the current economy has been a challenging and difficult task. All program areas were reviewed for efficiencies as well as the initiatives recommended for continuation using the School Committee's Budget Guidelines to inform decisions and set priorities. The FY11 Budget represents an increase of \$3.5 million (2.1%) over FY10, but they have identified enough cost saving measures to maintain class size at FY10 levels. He thanked the administrative staff systemwide for thoughtful review of all programs and services and diligence in seeking efficiencies. He also thanked the Mayor and his staff for open communication and collaborative efforts and special appreciation for the one-time reduction of health care costs. Finally, he thanked the Business, Finance & Planning office led by Sandy for the preparation of the budget, which was a Herculean task. Their work now is to review the budget in detail with the School Committee.

The Committee then began discussing and asking questions about the budget. Topics included regular instruction – elementary, middle and high schools, as well as technology.

- **Vote to Ratify Contract with Newton Teachers Association (NTA)**

The Committee voted to ratify the contract with the Newton Teachers Association (Units A, B, C, D & E) effective 9/1/09 - 8/31/10.

- **Donations**

The Committee voted to accept the donation of a refurbished Canon MP4500 copier, with network board and stapler finisher, to the Education Center (value \$4,500) from IKON, and a donation of \$1,826.60 to the preschool program from the Cutone family.

Summary
3/22/10 School Committee Meeting

- **Public Hearing on FY11 Budget**

The Committee heard comments from the community on the FY11 Budget. Topics included food service employees, creative arts and sciences, high school librarians, secretaries, and special education.

- **Superintendent's Report**

Interim Superintendent Jim Marini presented the monthly personnel and operations reports.

Personnel Report: Once the searches have been completed, the new principals will be invited to a School Committee meeting for introductions.

Operations Report: 1.) Only necessary work orders being approved in Charter Maintenance at this point due to low funds; 2.) Working with Public Buildings coordinating purchasing and staffing for summer projects; 3.) Food Service absenteeism continues to hamper daily operations.

Summary
4/12/10 School Committee Meeting

- **Superintendent's Report**

Jim Marini noted that they will present the school budget to the Board of Aldermen on Wednesday.

Student Services Report: Judy Levin-Charns, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, asked the Committee if the monthly report has been helpful and if they have any additional information that they would like her to include. Committee members commented that the current report is more of a budgetary document and requested more information around changes in population and programs, out-of-district comparisons, trends, and student achievement.

- **FY10 Budget Report**

Sandy Guryan, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Finance & Planning, noted that as of 3/26/10, the district has spent \$109,476,105, or 66% of the annual budget. Projected year-end based on current information is a positive balance of \$59,186 or \$32,197 more than last month's forecast. Improvements in benefits and special education costs, as well as continued savings in salaries and utilities, allow for the addition of limited year-end equipment purchases.

- **21st Century Skills Report**

Paul Stein, Deputy Superintendent, Shelley Chamberlain, Director of Information Technology, and Sharon DeCarlo, Executive Director of Instructional Programs, presented this update, which summarizes the progress toward the 21st Century student goals of the Strategic Plan. Newton is far advanced in this area compared to other communities and yet still in its infancy. They spoke of the work that has occurred with administrators meeting in various groups to consider the current status of learning in the schools, decide how next steps would build on ongoing initiatives, and create a road map for implementation. It outlines how the work is occurring in various disciplines. A Powerpoint and video presentation depicted specifically how this was happening in some of the pilot programs with the use of technology tools to support learning core content with 21st Century skills in 21st Century contexts. Key aspects were discussed including reading the research, professional development, and professional learning communities, which are being developed to systematically examine student work, inform instruction and improve student achievement. The 21st Century Skills and Professional Learning Communities Goals appear as action items in the Systemwide Goals. Their approach is not to create everything anew, but rather to build on current strengths. The Public Consulting Group (PCG) Center for Resource Management conducted an audit identifying areas of strength and challenges. PCG recommended the following: building leadership capacity, generating widespread community support and understanding of the initiative, assuring that

it will serve all students, establishing building-based leadership teams, using data to make decisions, allocating resources for support, and implementing annual action plans. In the first year they have accomplished the beginnings of creating a culture of 21st Century learning, with shared understanding of the mission, core values and goals, as well as a common definition for the skills and giving educators an opportunity to identify, implement and practice those skills. As they move forward they will continue to identify critical thinking skills specific to each content area and make this the focus of professional development. The greatest challenge will be in assessing the collective process. They are not alone in this effort, as districts that have made great strides in this area continue to struggle with how to find the best way to assess the impact on student learning. Everyone is excited and looking forward to this challenge.

- **Report on Kindergarten Placement**

Assistant Superintendent Patricia Kelly presented the report, which provides a draft of kindergarten placements including out-of-district, optional zones and staff and METCO placements. There are a total of 111 kindergarteners: 32 applied for out of district placements in the optional zones, 15 are students of staff and 19 in the METCO program. While every parent did not get the first choice, all children were placed. These numbers are expected to change as there will be movement in and out over the summer. Principals, the Director of Newton METCO and the Director of the Early Childhood program participated in these decisions. Committee members expressed concern about some of the class sizes being at a level that leaves little room for unexpected increases. A suggestion was made for next year to hold the placement letters until later in the year when numbers may be more certain, as well as considering placement of METCO students in later grades and revisiting contractual language around placement of children of staff. Principals Dave Castelline, Underwood, Midge Connolly, Williams, and Ruth Chapman (Interim), Peirce discussed the impact of the numbers on their particular schools noting that while they may be tight and they will have to make accommodations and careful planning, they will be manageable.

Jim Marini thanked Dr. Kelly for the hard work she put into these decisions. He does not want to see hostility between different constituencies around this subject. Newton's school population has grown by 500 over the past five years without any additional space. In the same timeframe METCO numbers have remained stable. They need to move forward with the Long-Range Facilities Plan, which is the only way that will ultimately address this issue systemwide. In the meantime, they have the resources to provide assistance to classrooms where necessary.

- **Race to the Top Status Report**

Paul Stein announced that only two states received funding in the first round of this grant (Delaware and Tennessee). Given the feedback received, they anticipate being in a good position to prevail in the next round in which 10-15 states will be funded.

- **Non-Public School Enrollment**

Sandy Guryan presented the report, which shows a total of 2,705 students attending non-public schools (private, home-schooled, tuitioned-out special education schools) – an increase of 23 students from last year, while public school enrollment was up by 37. The percentage of students enrolled in non- public schools this year increased from 18.8% to 18.9%. The report includes a 32-year history of enrollment, including the rate of change at the three levels since 1985, and by grade and school for the past two years. The numbers remain fairly consistent. Next year's report will include the survey of parents as to why they choose non-public schools.

- **Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Update**

Mike Cronin, Chief of Operations, updated the Committee on the status of the CIP, which includes projects funded from FY08, FY09, FY10, and the federal stimulus grants. He has been meeting with the Interim Building Commissioner every two weeks to review the list, in order to ensure that work is not overlooked and that the projects are on time and budget. The Committee requested that Mike prioritize the list into \$500,000 increments in the event that sufficient funding is not realized.

- **Donations**

The Committee voted to accept the anonymous donation of a copy of *Sit-In, How Four Friends Stood Up By Sitting Down* to the 15 elementary school libraries (value \$150).

- **Vote re: Last Day of School**

The School Committee voted the last day of school for students as 6/21/10, which will be a ½ day, and the last day for teachers as 6/22/10.

Summary
4/26/10 School Committee Meeting

- **Superintendent's Report**

Interim Superintendent Jim Marini discussed several topics: the Personnel Report, which outlines staff appointments, resignations, retirements, leaves of absence, professional teacher status, and transfers to high training levels. They are in the process of completing the principal searches and will be bringing the new hires to meet the Committee at the next meeting. He also announced that the Special Education program evaluation study bid was awarded to District Community Partners and the project is underway. The bids for the selection of the consultant for the Food Service study are due 5/20, with an anticipated July 1st start date. It should be noted that negotiations with the union are ongoing. He then listed highlights of the Monthly Operations Report including the hire of an additional person in Inspectional Services on the city side, who will focus on work orders to be certain safety issues are not being overlooked. The Committee asked questions of Mike Cronin, Chief of Operations, around work orders and user fee permit revenues.

- **Long-Range Facilities Update**

Mike Cronin updated the Committee on the current status of the Long-Range Facilities. The plan was completed by HMFH in 2008 including the crafting and submission of 17 Statement of Interest (SOI) to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), which are updated each summer as required. Angier remains the top priority for facility needs and the next step is to identify a funding source for a feasibility study. At this point, MSBA has not awarded Newton any funding. The Mayor mentioned that he is reviewing the status of the City's entire building inventory to develop a holistic plan for priorities and financing. The Committee will have further conversation on this topic at several upcoming meetings.

- **High School Data Team Presentation on Achievement Gap**

Principals Jen Price, Newton North High School, and Joel Stembridge, Newton South High School, gave a powerful presentation on the work of the data teams and using data to identify performance gaps and then putting necessary supports and interventions in place. They studied the current junior class, creating a composite to measure academic achievement, used histograms to explore the data, and separated the data by socio-economic status and race. New approaches and interventions for all students with sub optimal academic performance include after school programs, in-school support options, school-wide sharing of best practices, the achievement/scholars program, peer tutoring, professional development and the Global Education Leadership fund. Future plans to address the achievement gap include an advanced placement institute,

advanced placement potential program, Black/Latino scholar's programs, 9th grade transition, and working with the K-12 data team.

- **Cameras in the High Schools – Security Policy**

The School committee is being asked to review the current security policy regarding the installation of interior and exterior cameras at the high schools. The high school principals are requesting a change in the policy to allow for permanent installation of cameras. Jen Price and Joel Stembbridge talked about the increase in thefts in their buildings and inability to supervise all areas. Jen expressed particular concern about when the new building comes on line, which will be in use constantly by the community at large. They do not intend to be regularly monitoring recordings, but will review only when needed. The Committee requested some additional information and wants to have several more discussions before voting, as people have strong opinions about this matter and need to be heard.

- **Continued Discussion re: Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)**

As requested at the last meeting, Mike Cronin prioritized the list of CIP items into \$500,000 increments, in the event that the current level of funding (\$1.75) is not realized. The Mayor mentioned that he is reviewing the CIP process citywide. Additional time is needed to obtain more information and get a better sense of funding sources, so they will not vote on this until June.

- **Grants**

The Committee voted to accept the grant (Internship in Career and Technology Program at Newton North High School) from Legal Seafood totaling \$45,332.

- **Donation**

The Committee voted to accept a donation of \$500 from Vincent T. Ho and Mei Sheng Duh to the Transportation Department to help offset future transportation expenses, and a donation of \$50 from Irene Laursen to support the All City Honors Chorus Troubadours, in memory of the late mother of Martha Holmes, director of the chorus.

Summary
5/10/10 School Committee Meeting

- **Introduction of New Principals**

Joe Russo, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, introduced the new principals for next year: Burr Elementary School - Mindy Johal, Horace Mann Elementary School - Mark Nardelli, Memorial-Spaulding Elementary School - Lisa McManus, Peirce Elementary School - Mark Chitty, Oak Hill Middle School - Eva Thompson (from interim to permanent). Two openings remain – Lincoln Eliot Elementary School (interim will be named) and Day Middle School, which they anticipate filling by the end of the week. Interim Superintendent Jim Marini commented on the excellent leadership of Joe Russo in these searches, as well as the great work of the committees. The incoming Superintendent was involved in all selections.

- **Public Hearing/Vote on School Choice**

By law, the Committee held its annual public hearing on the issue of School Choice. No members of the public addressed the topic. The Committee voted not to participate in the Massachusetts School Choice Program for the 2010-2011 academic year.

- **Superintendent's Report**

Student Services Report: Jim Marini presented the Student Services Report. As a result of newly identified student needs and replacement of staff, there is an increase of 2.7 full time equivalencies (FTEs) of special education (SPED) aides. Contracted services have increased by \$100,000 to meet unanticipated student needs and outside service providers for staff leaves of absence/vacancies. Enrollment in the preschool program is 277 (79 with SPED needs, 72 without and 126 receiving related services). There are 162 students placed out-of-district and 492 receiving transportation. As of 5/4/10, there are 14 students enrolled at Central High School, with two additional referrals. Judy Levin-Charns mentioned three items: 1) new integrated classroom at Franklin next year; 2) mid-cycle review by the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DES) is scheduled for June; 3) program evaluation in progress.

FY11 Budget: Cost reductions in health care, Medicare, workers compensation and utilities lower the amount of the current gap of \$60,000. In addition, it appears that the State will issue additional stimulus funding for local aid and Chapter 70 funds. The hope is to close the gap and have a resolution as soon as possible.

FY10 Budget Report

Sandy Guryan, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Finance & Planning, noted that as of 4/26/10, the district has spent \$122,158,358, or 74% of the annual budget. Projected year-end based on current information is a positive balance of \$120,146 or \$60,960 more than last month's forecast due to

additional savings in utilities and continuing improvement in benefits. Recommendations for the use of the savings include elementary school feasibility study, technology for Newton South High School, and security cameras for both high schools.

- **Update on Technology Plan**

Shelley Chamberlain, Director of Information Technology, presented a Powerpoint on the state-approved technology plan, which is in its second of a three year implementation. The goals for the plan are organized in four key areas - Teaching and Learning, Educator Preparation & Professional Development, Infrastructure, and Administration & Support Services. Topics under Teaching & Learning include Data Initiative, Virtual Learning Task Force, CyberSafety Education, LIFT, Saturday STEM Academy, and 21st Century Classroom Initiative. Topics under Educator Preparation & Professional Development include Camp 21, Camp 2010, and Online Learning Expansion. Infrastructure includes Redesign/Update of the website. Administration & Support Services includes the parent portal. The Newton Schools Foundation (NSF) had planned to sponsor the initiative to fund the costs associated with the purchase and professional development around interactive tools to make each instructional space a “digital classroom.” Due to the bad economy, reorganization of the NSF, and some communication issues with the PTO Council around funding and equity, this project did not move as quickly as anticipated. The issues are now settled and the report outlined the plan for moving forward. Committee members commented on improving the timeline on the installation of Smart Boards, privacy concerns around the parent portal, and need to involve parents and students in the discussions.

- **Security Policy – Cameras in High Schools**

The Committee continued discussion from the last meeting on the request for a review of the current security policy. The high school principals want a change in the policy to allow for permanent installation of cameras due to increased thefts and inability to supervise all areas. Deb Holman, Vice-Principal of Newton North, and Mary Scott, Vice-Principal of Newton South, talked about the process of developing the protocol, which involved a lot of discussion with teachers, School Councils and, in North’s case, the student government. They then presented the draft of the protocol, which covered recommendations on the placement of cameras, signage, notification, access, viewing, process, short term data storage, and modifications. Committee members expressed an understanding of the need for better surveillance, but also the need to balance with privacy rights. Concern about infringement on civil liberties and need for strict controls and limits was mentioned, as well as the demoralizing atmosphere in the school as a result of the number of thefts and the financial impact on students and families. The student representatives emphasized the need for better communication with the student body on the reasons for this recommendation, as well as the details. The notion of a separate policy for each level was raised. Finally, given the financial impact of installing cameras, they may need to develop a tiered priority approach. Conversation on this topic will continue at the next meeting.

- **Vote to Support Designation of Newton as a Green Community**

Aldermen Deb Crossley and Stephen Linsky presented a request to the Committee asking for support for their participation in the City's application to the MA Dept. of Energy Resources to designate Newton as a Green Community, which would provide eligibility for state grant support. They outlined the specifics of the program and the Committee voted its approval.

Summary
5/24/10 School Committee Meeting

- **Superintendent's Report**

Interim Superintendent Jim Marini presented the following updates:

Personnel Report - Outlines staff appointments, resignations, retirements, leaves of absence, professional teacher status, and transfers to higher training levels.

Operations Report - Only emergency work orders are being approved in charter maintenance in order to stay in line with budget projections. They are working with Inspectional Services on implementing the required code upgrades in all buildings. Food Service attendance continues to be problematic in terms of daily operations.

Food Service Response for Proposal (RFP) Update - Four private vendors have submitted bids, which will be evaluated this week. Negotiations continue with the union.

Student Placement Policy - The recommendation calls for the development of a task force under the leadership of Sandy Guryan, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Finance & Planning. The purpose will be to study and review all existing policies and procedures under this topic including the out-of-district policy, choice/optional zones, feeder patterns, redistricting, school capacities, and the guidelines around class size. The review should commence in June and be completed in the fall so that it can be ready for the FY12 budget planning process.

Long-Range Facilities Update – Meeting with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), initiated by the Mayor, was been very constructive and gave clear guidance on a path for moving forward as we look to either renovate or replace some of our oldest school buildings.

- **Strategic Planning Update**

Virtual Learning Task Force - Shelley Chamberlain, Director of Information Technology, provided an update on the work of the task force, which was formed to expand and explore online learning options. Three teams were formed and took on the topics of virtual learning research, assessment of Newton's course management system and market research. Based on the recommendations, they will continue to research how instructional strategies can be better shared and utilized through a more organized district-wide system, in which online and blended courses are made more accessible. The first step will be the formation of the high school virtual learning team.

Partnerships Task Force – Joe Russo, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, provided an update on the work of the task force, which was formed to investigate how partnerships with universities, businesses and community members can enrich the work of the system. An inventory of current

partnerships was included in the materials, as well as some ideas of options for expansion.

- **Security Policy – Cameras in High Schools**

The Committee continued discussion from the last two meetings on the request to change the policy to allow for permanent installation of cameras at the high schools. The draft protocol was reviewed. Committee members and student representatives suggested modifications and this will be brought back for a final vote at the next meeting.

- **Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Discussion**

Mike Cronin, Chief of Operations, reviewed the CIP, which was discussed at the 4/26 meeting. At the request of the Committee, an additional chart was added reflecting FY12-FY16 priorities. The Mayor assured the Committee that the \$1.75 million that has been allocated to the school department for the past four years will also be available in FY11. The capital planner position will also be in place shortly and they will be working on a citywide CIP. A request was made for a list of items that were once on the CIP that have since been moved off due to other priorities so that the public can be made aware of what kinds of capital needs are not being addressed.

- **Establishment of Revolving Accounts**

The Committee voted to request the Mayor/Board of Aldermen to authorize an Elementary Schools' Early Morning Program revolving account, in accordance with *MGL C.44, S.53E 1/2*, effective July 1, 2010, with annual spending limits of \$350,000. The account will be used for the deposit of revenue for compensation of staff that cover the program, a small portion of each principal and school secretaries' salary, supplies and materials, and overhead including utilities.

- **Appointment to Newton Community Education Commission (NCEC)**

The Committee voted to reappoint Kathleen Olesky (effective 7/1/10 – 6/30/12) and Mark Wadness (effective 7/1/10 – 6/30/11) as representatives to the Newton Community Education Commission.

Summary
6/14/10 School Committee Meeting

- **Introduction of New Principals**

Joe Russo, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, introduced Brian Turner, the new Principal of Day Middle School and Gregg Hurray, who will be moving from interim at Horace Mann to Interim at Lincoln-Eliot.

- **Presentation by Newton Jingshan Exchange Group**

Donna Fong, Chairperson of the Newton-Beijing Jingshan Exchange Program, presented the Newton teachers and student participants returning from China, as well as the group that will be going next year. Several spoke about their experiences and thanked the Committee and administration for supporting this opportunity.

- **Superintendent's Report**

Student Services Report: Interim Superintendent Jim Marini commented that they are working on revising the document for next year, so that rather than a monthly report that is more aligned with the budget, it will be a quarterly programmatic document. The budget component will continue to be reported in the monthly budget updates.

Anti-Bullying Task Force Update: Two committees have been formed (prevention and intervention) and are working on these issues. Members have attended a statewide conference on this subject and are in the process of editing the Students Rights & Responsibilities' Handbook to reflect their work. They anticipate having a plan in place by December, as required by law.

Class Size Array: The elementary class size arrays are constantly changing. They do not intend to make permanent assignments until late August. Registrations will take place throughout the summer at the Education Center, in order to keep track of the numbers, and the draft arrays will continue to be updated and posted on the School Department website.

Update on Newton Corner: Jim Marini noted that after meetings with the Mayor, DPW, traffic engineer, and Police Department he continues to recommend no exemptions to the policy. Students in this area have the ability to take the bus with waivers available if necessary. Families in all the safety zones will receive a packet of material outlining the policy and waiver options.

Student Placement Group: Jim Marini announced that Sandy Guryan, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Finance & Planning, will head up a Student Placement Task Force that will review all existing policies and procedures related to student placements including enrollments, feeder patterns, out-of-district, choice/optional zones, METCO program and students of eligible staff. The timeline for review will be June-October 2010. An initial public forum will be held on Monday, 6/28/10, Education Center, Frazier Room from 5:00 – 6:30 PM, to seek community input. A second forum will be held in September and a final report presented in November.

- **FY10 Budget Report**

Sandy Guryan noted that as of 5/25/10, the district has spent \$134,211,769, or 81% of the annual budget. Projected year-end based on current information is a positive balance of \$277,244 or \$157,098 more than last month's forecast due to additional savings in utilities, unemployment, non-SPED contract services, out-of-district tuition, transportation and supplies. The Committee discussed the recommendation for the

\$272,000 year-end purchasing of technology and security cameras for Newton South High School. Further discussion and a vote will be taken at the next meeting.

- **Full Day Kindergarten Task Force Report**

Patricia Kelly, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, along with several members of the Task Force, presented the report. The Superintendent charged them with the task of determining the feasibility of having four full days of kindergarten instruction that would mirror the timeframe of the current grades 1-5 schedule. The report includes a review of the merits of the current program, potential downsides, research on half and full day programs, implications for change, as well as a parent and staff survey. Their conclusion is that this is feasible but the topic requires additional study and steps, which are outlined in the report. Once the new Superintendent is in place, he will meet with the group regarding the process for moving forward.

- **Math Update**

Mary Eich, Mathematics Coordinator K-8, provided a detailed report and Powerpoint presentation on this year's progress toward accomplishing the three- year plan presented in February 2009 for continuous improvement of mathematics education. As outlined in the Mission Statement of the 2006 Mathematics Curriculum Review, the goal called for all students to understand and be able to apply mathematical concepts, procedures and processes to solving challenging problems and to prepare students for continued mathematical studies.

- **Naming Facilities**

In accordance with School Committee policy, the Committee approved a request by Newton South High School to establish a naming committee to find an appropriate space to honor Bob Chrusz (former athletic director) for his contributions to the school.

- **Security Policy – Cameras in High Schools**

The Committee continued its review of the draft protocol & policy and approved as amended.

- **Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)**

The CIP plan was presented and categorized into tiers based on priority, including a list of projects that were once on the CIP but for various reasons removed. After a full discussion the Committee voted approval.

- **Establishment of Revolving Accounts**

The Committee voted to request the Mayor/Board of Aldermen to authorize the establishment of a "Greengineering" departmental revolving account, in accordance with *MGLC.74, S.14B*, effective July 1, 2010, with an annual spending limit of \$25,000. The account will be used for the purpose of collecting funds for the manufacture and sale of biodiesel fuel from vegetable oil produced by the students, with the proceeds being used in support of the program.

- **Grants**

The Committee voted to accept the grants (Title I School Improvement & Do the Right Thing) totaling \$4,122.

Summary
6/28/10 School Committee Meeting

- **Superintendent's Report**

Interim Superintendent Jim Marini presented the following updates:

Personnel Report - Outlines staff appointments, resignations, retirements, leaves of absence, professional teacher status, and transfers to higher training levels.

Operations Report - The two major highlights from the report are that Charter maintenance will end the year with a \$54,000 deficit and they continue to work with the Instructional Service Department to be sure all summer camps using school buildings are meeting codes and receive approved occupancy permits.

Food Services Update: The bid to outsource the Food Service Program was secured by Whitsons New England, Inc. subject to collective bargaining.

- **Retirements**

Joe Russo, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, recognized the 50 retirees from the system this year and noted their years of excellent service to the students of the Newton Public Schools.

- **Naming Facilities Update**

Jonathan Bassett, Chair of the Newton North Naming Committee, presented the report. In accordance with School Committee policy, Newton North High School formed a special advisory committee to make recommendations for naming spaces and facilities in the new building. This will be the first of several meetings on this topic prior to a public hearing and vote being taken, as required by the Committee's policy. It was noted that there is no funding available in the construction budget for signage.

- **Elementary Pilot Review**

Joe Russo presented the report, which reviews the pilot programs at Countryside and Peirce Elementary Schools, including data collected from a mid-year survey and individual school plans for next year. The pilot established K-5 Professional Learning Communities at the two schools and included reorganizing the school schedule to eliminate the Thursday afternoon program and replace it with common planning time by grade level. The progress, successes and challenges were discussed. Peirce is planning to continue the program as is, while Countryside has decided to reinstate the Thursday afternoon program and include common planning time at other times during the week.

- **Expanded Learning Time Task Force (ELT)**

Paul Stein, Deputy Superintendent, presented the report, which was put forward from "Vision 2020: A Strategic Plan for the Newton Public Schools" in June 2009. The overview of the ELT work was reviewed and discussed. The range of benefits and options, as well as the financial and time commitments, were noted. The Committee viewed this document as a pathway to the future needs of the system.

- **Special Education Trends**

Judy Levin-Charns, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, presented this report, which is a shift from budgetary to programmatic reporting. It included district and state disability data, information on out-of-district placements, and implications for planning. Central High was included in the discussion. Two students graduated in June and are college bound. Enrollment of 14 is anticipated in September.

- **Innovation Lab Grant**

The Committee voted to approve the \$50,000 grant from Parametric Technology (PTC) for an innovation lab, where educators, students, and business/community stakeholders can explore and pilot new educational initiatives and partnerships to create solutions for 21st century social, economic and environmental challenges. PTC has already worked with the school system in the Robotics and Greenengineering programs. The grant will result in PTC becoming a founding partner of the lab and will support a .5 FTE staff member to oversee activities. It is anticipated that additional partners will join, a governing board will be established, and it will be a self-sustaining K-12 program.

- **Year-End Purchasing (Technology/Security Cameras)**

Sandy Guryan, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Finance & Planning, provided an update on the status of the FY10 projected year-end savings and recommendation for their use. Included in the materials was a review from Mike Cronin, Chief of Operations, on the high school security camera options including cost proposals. The Committee discussed the materials and voted the following:

To approve the recommendations for the FY10 year-end purchasing (\$308,000) for technology and cameras for Newton South High School, as outlined in the 6/28/10 memoranda.

To request that the Board of Aldermen consider fully funding the Newton North High School security system out of the project budget.

To the extent that additional funds up to \$25,000 become available over the course of the remainder of the year, that they be allocated toward the highest priority technology needs of the schools in consideration of middle and elementary schools, and at the discretion and recommendation of the Superintendent and his staff.

- **Approval of Private School – Integrated Learning Academy – Newton (ILAN)**

In accordance with Mass. General Laws, which require school committees to approve the program for private schools within their jurisdiction, the Committee voted to approve the program for the Integrated Learning Academy - Newton (ILAN) private school.

- **Donation**

The Committee voted to accept the donation of \$659.39 to the preschool program from the Cutone family.

- **School Committee Subcommittee & Liaison Reports**

Newton North High School Liaison Update: Reenie Murphy provided an update on the project. Demolition and asbestos abatement will occur in phases. The move to the new school will occur between 6/29-7/16 and the school and city respectfully ask that people not visit the new building during the summer. There will be a public tour sometime in late August or early September.

Summary
9/13/10 School Committee Meeting

- **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent David Fleishman provided an update on the opening of school, which went very smoothly thanks to the efforts of all staff, and the excitement around the new Newton North High School. He began his school visits today at Memorial-Spaulding and will do one school per day for the next 20 days. New hires to the system or new to the positions include 93 teachers, 103 aides, 7 administrators, 5 principals, 3 Information Technology and Community Education staff and a Human Resource Director (Heather Richards), whom he introduced to the Committee this evening. He then announced Newton's share of Race to the Top funding (\$171,000).

- **FY10 Final Financial Report**

Sandy Guryan, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Finance & Planning, noted that the final FY10 budget resulted in a positive balance of \$1,212. Year-end savings in utilities and supplies and remaining funds for contractual obligations allowed for a Circuit Breaker carry forward of \$868,895. This is an important source of funds for FY11, as it will serve to offset reduced funding in a number of grants, close the remaining gap, and allow for other needs as determined by the School Committee.

- **Special Education (SPED) Study Status Update**

Paul Stein, Deputy Superintendent, provided an update on the status of the SPED study. The project is on schedule. Interviews have been conducted with staff members and district data has been collected and is being analyzed and summarized. Future work includes parent focus groups, classroom visits, and surveys of educators and parents. The final report will be presented at a School Committee meeting early in 2011.

- **Day Middle School Space Options & Update on Elementary Space Needs**

Sandy Guryan reviewed the history and brought people up to speed on the status of this subject both short and long term. She talked about the growth the middle schools are facing and reviewed the facilities needs. She spoke about the redistricting possibilities that the Facilities Subcommittee reviewed and how that only shifted the problem vs. producing a solution. Paul Stein spoke about their review of possible program shifts/consolidations at the middle schools and the impact that would have on programs (world language, art, SPED) and teams. In terms of Day Middle School, the Subcommittee and the architects will present four options for alleviating the space problem at Day at the next meeting. Mayor Warren then introduced Stephanie Gilman, the new Building Commissioner for the City, whose expertise is in capital planning.

- **Systemwide Goals**

David Fleishman reviewed the draft of the Systemwide Goals, which fall under three categories: Educational, Managerial/Operational, and Community and talked about how these connect with the School Improvement Plans. He spoke about the importance of using data for assessment and evaluation of performance. He plans on bringing in professionals from the field (measurement and assessment) to join them at an upcoming School Committee meeting to have a robust discussion on how and what to measure, as well as developing data teams to connect the data to instruction and to customize learning.

- **2010-2011 Proposed School Committee Calendar/Agenda Items**

In reviewing the draft FY11 agenda calendar, there was consensus among Committee members to structure meetings to include more discussion on review of the educational, managerial and operational goals. Regular reports (e.g.) Personnel, SPED, Operations will be produced, but not necessarily discussed unless there is a pressing issue. Further discussion and a possible vote on the calendar will take place at the next meeting.

- **Vote to Appoint Delegate & Alternate for Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) /Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS) Conference**

The Committee selected Geoff Epstein as its voting delegate and Margie Ross-Decter as the alternate to the MASC/MASS Conference in November.

- **Donation**

The Committee voted to accept a donation from Peggy Freedman to support the All City Honors Chorus Troubadours, in memory of the late mother of Martha Holmes, director of the chorus.

- **Grants**

The Committee voted to accept the grants (AARA IDEA, IDEA Special Education Entitlement, Racial Imbalance, Kindergarten, Perkins, Greek Studies, Italian Instruction and Inclusive Preschool) totaling \$7,263,701.

Summary
9/27/10 School Committee Meeting

- **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent David Fleishman visited Newton South High School and within two weeks he will have been to every school. He thanked all involved in the Newton South *One Book One School* curriculum program, which was a great success. He also announced the promotion of Sandy Guryan to the position of Deputy Superintendent/Chief Administrative Officer. She will continue to manage all finance & planning and will now also oversee operations and human resources. He is confident that with her skills, leadership and credibility, she is the right person to fill this role and will streamline all non-academic areas and better equip NPS to address issues around facilities planning and implementation. This recommendation is in line with the Gibson Consulting Group in terms of reorganizing the administrative operations.

- **Continued Discussion of Facilities Options for Day Middle School & Elementary Data Gathering**

Sandy Guryan presented a brief overview on facilities, including enrollment projections, a history on the work of the Facilities Committee, and the process to date. This was followed by a Powerpoint presentation by architect Gene Raymond, of Raymond, Design & Associates, Inc. (RDA), on possible options for alleviating the space problem at Day Middle School. Criteria in the decision-making process included minimal disturbance to the school, parking neutral, no classrooms without windows, cost, cafeteria expansion, no impact to academic program and main entry improvements. Options deemed impractical in light of the criteria were discarded leaving the four options being presented this evening. It was noted that these four were whittled down from approximately 70 original scenarios. Sandy concluded with an update on the elementary school space needs and, in particular, the three schools needing immediate attention (Mason-Rice, Zervas and Burr).

- **Review of Naming Facilities Policy**

Kurt Kusiak presented a draft of the recommended changes to the policy regarding naming facilities. The purpose of editing this document is to allow the system to both attract donors who might be interested in naming rights, which would provide funding for the system, while simultaneously balancing the desire to preserve the consideration of naming facilities after historical figures and people in the community that have made a positive impact on the schools. Committee members asked questions, offered input, and raised some issues including equity. Based on the conversation, a second draft will be presented and reviewed at the next meeting.

- **Preliminary Update on Student Placement Policy**

Sandy Guryan provided an update on the work of the Student Placement Policy Task Force, whose charge was to review existing policies and practices around placement of students in other than their assigned schools, including METCO students and students of staff who may contractually attend the Newton Public Schools, and develop recommendations for changes to the policy. The work consisted of data gathering around enrollment, projections, current policies, past practices, space constraints, and other related information, including a survey of 13 other school districts. Issues to be addressed in revising the policy will include clarifying language regarding eligibility for out-of-district placement, clarifying process re: approval/non-approval, articulating timing for the process, defining "space availability," considering long term impact of elementary and middle school placements on high school populations, defining optional, choice and/or buffer zones, clarifying feeder patterns, and placements for programmatic reasons. They are near completion of an initial draft revised policy and will bring that forward at the next meeting.

- **2010-2011 Proposed School Committee Calendar/Agenda Items**

The Committee reviewed the 2nd draft of the calendar/agenda items. Several members provided additional suggestions for revisions and additions. The Chair, Vice-Chair and Superintendent will review those suggestions and further discussion and a vote will take place at the next meeting. It was also noted that a mid-year review of the calendar will provide an opportunity to add topics for later in the year that did not make it into this iteration.

- **Appointment of Budget Guidelines Subcommittee**

Claire Sokoloff appointed Reenie Murphy (Chair), Sue Rosenbaum and Margie Ross-Decter to the Budget Guidelines Subcommittee.

- **Vote to Approve Green SOI Applications**

Based on a recent review of possible green-eligible projects, the Committee voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the MSBA Statements of Interest (SOIs) for auditorium roof repairs at Bowen Elementary School and two boiler replacements at Williams Elementary School.

- **Grants**

The Committee voted to accept the grants (Title III, Academic Support, Coordinated Family & Community Engagement, Mentoring, Bowen Gift, The Newton Partnership-Touch A Truck, Title I) totaling \$931,312.

- **Superintendent's Report**

Enrollment Report

Superintendent David Fleishman, along with Sandy Guryan, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Administrative Officer, provided a brief update on the Preliminary Enrollment Report. As of October 1st, Newton's enrollment is 11,778 or a net increase of 171 students over last year (an additional 122 at the elementary level, three less at middle school, and 52 more at high school). Projections at each level are within 1%, -1.2%, and 1.6% respectively. This is the 6th consecutive year of growth. The kindergarten population is the second largest class in two decades. Eleven elementary schools have increased enrollment, with six close to their highest levels in two-three decades. At the middle schools, growth peaks are expected in Day and Oak Hill in FY14, Brown in FY16, and Bigelow in FY18. At the high schools, the growth at Newton North vs. Newton South is due to a large incoming class of freshmen vs. a small outgoing class of seniors, as well as greater than expected numbers of students new to Newton and transfers from private schools. The report includes detailed information by school and grades. Official enrollment numbers will be available in November.

- **Fiscal & Operations Report**

Sandy Guryan presented the first of a series of regular updates on the status of the school district in the following areas: financial, human resources, operations and facilities, utilities, student services/special education (SPED), fees, school lunch program, purchasing, grants and private funds. Spending in the 1st quarter is in line with the FY11 budget; summer maintenance projects were completed throughout the district; and the system is fully staffed in accordance with the staffing plans for the year.

- **Newton Schools Foundation (NSF) Update**

Mary Conway, the new Executive Director of the NSF, was introduced to the Committee. She presented a Powerpoint entitled *21st Century Skill Building & Building 21st Century Classrooms Plan Overview*. She gave a synopsis of the history of the NSF and its recent change in focus to exclusively support the NPS 2020 Strategic Plan. Their fundraising goal is to install technology and multimedia in all instructional spaces by 2014, at a cost of \$4 million dollars. Benefits, outcomes, and a timeline are included in the report. It was noted that this will require collaboration with the entire community. Various programs for revenue sources are also included in the material, such as rights to naming facilities, major & corporate outreach, end-of-year appeal with matching gifts, and 21st Century Classroom Week with open houses.

- **SPED Study Update**

Paul Stein, Deputy Superintendent, provided an update on the status of the SPED study. The parent focus group meetings have been scheduled, which will allow an opportunity for feedback to the consultants. Classroom visits are scheduled and they have nearly completed the design of surveys for educators and parents which will be conducted in November.

- **Continued Discussion of Facilities Options for Day Middle School & Elementary Data Gathering**

Sandy Guryan led the continued discussion of short term space issues. The materials include updated enrollment and projections, revised assessment of classroom needs for 2011 and beyond, three new "hybrid" renovation plans to address the needs at Day, including proposed revised options by floor plan and cost information. In addition, there is a memorandum regarding elementary space needs, which indicates constraints in five elementary schools. Also included are answers to School Committee questions, and prior reports and memos on the subject. School Committee discussed, reviewed and questioned the materials. A special meeting was scheduled

for 10/20, at the Education Center, Frazier Room, 8:00 p.m., for the purpose of continuing these discussions and obtaining public feedback.

- **Draft Recommendation of Student Placement Policy**

Sandy Guryan reviewed the charge of the Student Placement Policy Task Force, which was to review the existing policies and procedures that govern student assignments to schools outside of their assigned placements, as well as the placement of non-resident Newton students, to determine if those policies and practices are adequate in light of current school populations and space constraints across the district. The Task Force heard input from the community in a public forum held last June, as well as from discussions with principals and administrators. This has resulted in a draft policy being presented this evening for an initial read. That will then be followed up with a public hearing at the 10/25 School Committee meeting, and then a vote on 11/8. Committee members suggested some revisions to the initial draft.

- **Massachusetts Association of School Committees/Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASC/MASS) Resolutions**

The voting delegate (Geoff) and alternate (Margie) reviewed and provided their recommendations on how they should vote on behalf of the Committee on the seven resolutions pending for the upcoming MASC/MASS conference. The Committee had some discussion and this item will be on the next meeting's agenda for a vote.

- **Discussion of 2011-2012 School Calendar**

The Committee reviewed the proposed calendar, which brings teachers back before Labor Day (8/31) and students starting the Tuesday after Labor Day (9/6). The Committee will vote at the next meeting.

- **Continued Discussion/Vote on 2011-2012 Proposed School Committee Calendar/Agenda Items**

The Committee reviewed and approved the 3rd draft of the calendar/agenda items for FY11.

- **Continued Discussion/Vote Re: Naming Facilities Policy**

Kurt Kusiak presented the 2nd draft of the recommended changes to the policy regarding naming facilities. Committee members made some suggested edits and approved a final version.

- **Grants**

The Committee voted to accept the grants (Early Childhood IDEA, Early Childhood ARRA) totaling \$140,613, as outlined in the 10/14/10 memorandum. Included in the report, but no action required of the Committee, was the announcement of the grant awarded to the Newton Police Department (Secure our Schools) totaling \$251,500.

- **Communications/School Committee Subcommittee & Liaison Updates**

Newton North High School Liaison: Reenie mentioned some traffic issues at the high school that have been promptly addressed by Regina Moody, Transportation Director. It will take some time to work out the bugs with the new buildings but everyone is working hard to keep things running smoothly.

Public Engagement: Reenie will have more information on this subject at the next meeting.

- **Public Hearing on Student Placement Policy**

The Student Placement Policy Subcommittee held a public hearing to solicit feedback from the community regarding the revised draft of the Out-of-Assigned District School Placement Policy. The Subcommittee answered questions and listened to input and will take these comments under advisement and report back on the next steps.

Continued Discussion re: Facilities – Short-Term Options

The Committee continued its discussion re: facilities and reviewed the most recent materials provided. These included a.) a memorandum from Paul Stein, Deputy Superintendent and Brian Turner, Principal of Day Middle School regarding classroom usage at Day, b.) a Q & A prepared by Sandy Guryan, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Administrative Officer re: recently asked questions related to the proposed additional space at Day, and c.) a copy of the Powerpoint presentation on short-term space options presented at the 10/20 special meeting.

- **Continued Discussion re: Student Placement Policy**

The Committee thanked the Subcommittee for their work in developing the revised draft policy, in a manner that is as fair and as equitable as possible for the entire community. They acknowledged the variety of opinions expressed in the public forum around equity, flexibility, specific numbers, and timeframe for submission of applications. They look forward to hearing a recommendation from the Subcommittee with regard to how they will proceed.

- **Continued Discussion re: Systemwide Goals**

The Superintendent presented an updated draft of the 2010-2011 Systemwide Goals, which includes an improvement strategy/activity and an outcome/measurement for each goal. The goals fall under three categories: Educational, Managerial/Operations, and Community. The Committee provided some input for revisions and will discuss in greater detail at the next meeting.

- **Discussion of FY12 Budget Guidelines**

Reenie Murphy, Chair of the Budget Guidelines Subcommittee, provided a rough outline of how the Guidelines could be drafted. There were differences in opinion with regard to the amount of specificity they should provide to the Superintendent. Some wanted clear prioritization of guidelines, particularly on topics like math, middle schools and maintenance, as these are areas they have been working on over the past few years. The Subcommittee will meet with the Superintendent and his staff before bringing back a draft version of the Guidelines.

- **2011-2012 School Calendar**

The Committee voted to approve the calendar, which brings teachers back before Labor Day (August 31) and students starting on the Tuesday after Labor Day (September 6).

- **Vote re: Massachusetts Association of School Committees/Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASC/MASS) Resolutions**

The Committee discussed the seven resolutions pending for the MASC/MASS conference and gave direction to the voting delegate (Geoff Epstein) and/or alternate (Margie Ross-Decter) on how to vote.

- **Grants**

The Committee voted to accept the grants (Title IIA, BU Cluster) totaling \$274,160, as outlined in the 10/21/10 memorandum.

- **Communications/School Committee Subcommittee & Liaison Updates**

Public Engagement: Reenie Murphy presented three items under this topic. First, they are working on developing the capacity in-house to send out information/notifications to parents without having to rely on individual PTOs. They are close to completion on gathering all the email addresses for this purpose. The parent portal will be piloted at Williams, Brown & Newton South this fall. At minimum, this system will include report card and attendance information. The IT department anticipates having this up and running districtwide by Spring 2011. Further discussion about this topic was requested for a future meeting, as there are some questions about what will be mandatory vs. discretionary reporting. The Committee then discussed whether the interactive public comment at meetings has been helpful and whether or not to continue that process vs. having topical meetings. The Subcommittee recommended the latter. Following discussion, it was agreed to retain regular public comment, but with flexibility with regard to interaction. The last item had to do with the timing of posting School Committee meeting materials to the website and clarification on the Open Meeting Law rules & regulations regarding this matter. The recommendation is to maintain the current deadline for posting the materials by noon of the day of a meeting with the goal of posting all documents sooner if possible.

Summary
11/8/10 School Committee Meeting

- **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent David Fleishman mentioned the 1st annual *School Age Child Care Initiative* conference sponsored by the Newton After School Association and held at Countryside School on 10/20. He had the pleasure of being the keynote speaker and was extremely impressed not only by the caliber of the discussions and workshops, but also the fact that they are focusing on similar topics as the school system, such as bullying prevention and strategies to support children with special needs to name a few.

Student Placement Policy Update

The Superintendent gave a brief update on the status of the work of the Student Placement Policy Task Force. Following the public hearing on 10/25, the group reviewed the community input and took that back for further deliberations. The topics included the use of numeric guidelines to define space availability; clarification of buffer zone definitions and the Mason-Rice one mile zone; concerns about applications from Cabot Elementary School for out-of-assigned district middle school placements; timing of placement decisions; and prioritization of factors in consideration of applications. The Task Force is also working with principals to ensure that each community has the information and opportunity to address final questions. Once this is completed, a final draft of the policy will be presented for discussion and a vote will be taken at a future School Committee meeting.

Short Term Facilities – Middle School Space

The Superintendent reviewed the additional information provided in the packet answering questions raised at the last meeting regarding Day and Brown Middle School space constraints and impact on particular programs such as special education (SPED), English Language Learners (ELL) and specialists.

- **Fiscal & Operational Update**

Sandra Guryan, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Administrative Officer, presented the update on the status of the school district in the following areas: financial, human resources, operations and facilities, utilities, student services/ SPED, fees, performance management: payroll, maintenance and purchasing, information technology, grants and private funds, and the school lunch program. Highlights included the annual Report on Affirmative Action showing the number and percent of racially diverse staff increasing slightly in Units A and E; a summary of capital projects stemming from the NORESO program that focus on energy and costs saving outcomes; collaboration with the City around systemwide process mapping of all work orders, payroll and human resources, and technology, in order to improve efficiencies and outcomes; Central High School in its second year currently operating with 14 students; and a grants summary (over \$11.1 million in FY11).

- **Presentation of Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) Professional Development: Leadership Initiative for Teaching & Technology (LIFT2) Program**

The Committee heard from Sarah Nitsche, 7th grade made teacher at Day Middle School, about her 12 month professional development program in partnership with the Metro-West Regional Employment Board. She worked with Stantec – a civil and environmental engineering firm – around the topic of water treatment. This authentic work has improved her practice by incorporating 21st century skills into the classroom and engaging students in learning through real life scenarios to encourage and motivate them to pursue STEM fields.

- **NPS Strategies for Excellence in Teaching**

Sharon DeCarlo, Executive Director of Instructional Programs, conducted a Powerpoint presentation on professional development – its purpose; connection to learning; licensure and legal requirements; specific workshops and activities (whole-grade, building-based and cross-discipline) both summer based and during the course of the year; research and best practices; job embedded learning in math and literacy; 21st Century Learning Camp; and the Tech Toolkit and PD tools for on-line access.

- **Continued Discussion of Systemwide Goals**

The Superintendent and Committee continued their discussion from the last meeting around the draft of the 2010-2011 Systemwide Goals, which includes an improvement strategy/activity and an outcome/measurement for each goal. The goals fall under three categories: Educational, Managerial/Operations, and Community. At the next meeting they will hear a presentation on assessment and measurement from a Harvard professor that will help in these discussions.

- **Continued Discussion re: FY12 Budget Guidelines**

Reenie Murphy, Chair of the Budget Guidelines Subcommittee, provided the draft of the Guidelines based on the initial discussion at the last meeting. Committee members provided additional feedback and will have further discussion and a vote on the final document at the next meeting. While the exact city allocation has not yet been determined, the guidelines prepare for a budget gap that could be as high as \$5 million.

- **Vote to Reappoint Representative to Newton Child Care Commission**

The Committee voted to reappoint Wendy Protheroe as a Commissioner to the Newton Child Care Commission (effective term January 2011 – January 2013).

- **Grants**

It was moved to accept the grants (Title IV, State Fiscal Stabilization Funds, Education Jobs) totaling \$273,179.

- **Communications/School Committee Subcommittee & Liaison Updates**

Geoff Epstein gave a brief synopsis on the discussions and workshops at the recent MASC/MASS conference. MASC will post all materials that were distributed at the conference and he will provide the Committee with a written summary.

Summary
11/22/10 School Committee Meeting

- **Proclamation – Inclusive Schools Week**

The Inclusive Schools Network and Education Development Center, Inc. has designated the week of December 6-10, 2010 *Inclusive Schools Week*. Special Education Parents Advisory Council Chair Sandy Baird gave some background on *Inclusive Schools Week*. The Mayor presented and read the proclamation regarding Newton's participation and all School Committee members signed in support.

- **Superintendent's Report**

Student Placement Policy Update

David Fleishman provided an update on the work of the task force to date, which included an opportunity for further community input. The final draft recommendation will be presented for discussion and a vote at the 12/13 School Committee meeting.

- **Enrollment Analysis Report**

Sandy Guryan, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Administrative Officer, provided highlights of the report. Enrollment has grown for six consecutive years and is projected to continue to increase for the next seven years. Current enrollment is 11,775. This is 79 students (0.7%) above projections (+55 at the elementary level, -35 at the middle schools, and +59 at the high schools). Net growth at the elementary schools has continued to increase for the 8th consecutive year and the current population at this level is the highest since the late 1970s. Over the next three years, the middle schools are expected to grow by 302 students (11.8% increase). By 2012-2013, high school enrollment will start to rise. The full report provides information on past and future enrollment trends and detailed information for each school. The report also includes the former Exit Statistics Report, which analyzes student mobility, and now includes entrance data.

- **Continued Discussion/Vote re: FY12 Budget Guidelines**

Reenie Murphy, Chair of the Budget Guidelines Subcommittee, provided the revised draft of the Guidelines based on the discussion at the last meeting. Committee members suggested some minor changes and voted approval of the revised document. The Guidelines will be posted on the School Committee website.

- **Assessment & Measurement Presentation**

The Committee conducted a Q & A with Professor Dan Koretz of Harvard Graduate School of Education around the topic of educational testing and measurement. The thrust of Professor Koretz's presentation supports the notion that while testing has to be part of an effective accountability program, the data must be used in an appropriate manner and in conjunction with other measures.

- **Presentation on Bullying Prevention & Intervention Policy**

Deputy Superintendent Paul Stein presented the work of the Anti-Bullying Task Force, which included several members of The Newton Partnership, to develop the draft document presented this evening. The report describes Newton's plan to fulfill the requirements of the law, with the goal of creating a school culture free of harassment and bullying. The task force split into two groups, with one focusing on prevention and the other intervention. Instruction on bullying prevention is not something new to Newton Public Schools, as a

number of programs addressing the subject have already been implemented over time. This work serves to strengthen and improve what is already in place. The report also addresses the professional development piece and parent and community engagement. A time for public comment on the policy is being set aside at the next School Committee meeting.

- **The Newton Partnership – Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant**

Susan Linn, Director of The Newton Partnership, talked about the work of the Partnership, which involves a collaborative of 15+ nonprofit and public organizations working together for the safety, health and emotional well-being of Newton children, youth and families. The program is funded through a four-year \$6 million Safe Schools Healthy Students Grant from the U.S. Department of Education and Health and Human Services, as well as a three-year \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. The presentation included a description of the activities, programs, services and evaluation highlights.

- **Facilities Discussion/Vote**

Sandy Guryan reviewed and the School Committee approved the short-term facilities space recommendation, which includes renovations to Day Middle School to provide six additional classroom spaces, expand the cafeteria, and redesign and possibly relocate the administrative offices. The recommendation also calls for the installation of up to six modular classrooms at five elementary schools (one each at Burr, Countryside, Horace Mann, and Mason-Rice, and two at Zervas) to be bid both as standard and green modulares and with a total budget not to exceed \$5 million.

- **Discussion re: Newton North High School Naming Recommendations**

Kurt Kusiak presented a list of naming rights opportunities prepared by the Newton Schools Foundation. It was agreed that the subcommittee needs to meet to further discuss this item before making any recommendations.

- **Vote to Accept Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Between the Newton School Committee and the Newton School Custodians Association (Nutrition Workers Unit)**

The Committee voted to ratify the MOA between the Newton School Committee and the Newton School Custodians Association (Nutrition Workers Unit).

- **Vote to Approve Grant**

The Committee voted to approve the grants totaling \$300,200 (China Exchange Initiative, Big Yellow School Bus).

Summary
12/13/10 School Committee Meeting

- **Superintendent's Report**

1. The community was briefed on an incident which occurred at Newton North earlier in the day, when a student reported seeing another student with what appeared to be a firearm. The building was immediately put into lock-down mode for safety purposes and police conducted a detailed investigation. It was determined that the object was actually a butane lighter shaped like a gun. He thanked everyone involved for the quick and thorough response.
2. Dr. Fleishman announced the formation of the Countryside Task Force, which will be composed of the Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, the principal, three parents, two to three faculty/staff, and one School Committee member. The purpose of this task force will be to examine the issue of available space for students in light of a growing population and limited physical resources.
3. Principal searches for Lincoln-Eliot and Underwood Elementary Schools have begun.
4. Dr. Fleishman acknowledged that a glitch has appeared in the process of the recently voted short-term facilities projects for modulars at five elementary schools and renovations at Day Middle School. A new law that took affect on January 1st of this year requires sprinkler systems be installed in any existing building being renovated or replaced and/or combined addition and building with a square footage over 7,500 square feet, which applies to all of the projects. Since this was not factored into the current budget for the projects, they are working with the architect and a consultant to understand the associated costs, possible options for time extensions and/or other relief, and the impact on the project proposal.

- **Update on 21st Century Classroom**

Shelley Chamberlain, Director of Information Technology, addressed the topic of the 21st Century Classroom Campaign – a partnership between Newton Public Schools and the Newton Schools Foundation dedicated to outfitting every instructional space with a full complement of interactive tools. The Committee has previously heard presentations about the pilot programs. This evening they will hear from Dr. Damien Bebell and his research assistants from the Boston College's Technology and Assessment Study Collaborative, about the findings of their work in evaluating these programs. The review noted very favorable results and included classroom observations, student and teacher surveys, student work, and student achievement using 2010 MCAS results as part of the pre/post matched comparison group study.

- **MCAS Results & AYP Improvement Plans**

Deputy Superintendent Paul Stein presented an overview of the MCAS data, which breaks the information down by school, grade level, test subject and subgroups. For the first time, at the district-wide level, certain subgroups did not

meet their targeted proficiency scores in order to make Adequate Yearly Progress as defined by No Child Left Behind regulations. Despite this, performance of Newton's students rates "very high" in the aggregate. The report includes the ways in which the system is using this data to isolate areas of strengths and weaknesses and to identify content area subtopics in need of attention.

- **Fiscal & Operational Report**

Sandra Guryan, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Administrative Officer, presented highlights of the fiscal and operational status of the school district. As of December 1st, the operational conditions continue to be positive. Increases in the forecasts for health insurance and student services have put pressure on the system in meeting the FY11 budget parameters. Increased salary savings, favorable gas rates and projected savings in the food service budget helped to alleviate the increased overages this month. There is potential for state funding for two "green" capital projects.

- **Recommendation and Vote on Student Placement Policy**

Sandy Guryan presented the final draft of the work of the Student Placement Policy Task Force on the Out-of-Assigned District policy, taking into consideration comments from the School Committee, administration and the public. The policy will be posted on the School Committee website.

- **Discussion & Vote on Bullying Prevention & Intervention Policy**

The Committee heard from one member of the public this evening on this topic and voted to approve the policy as presented at the last meeting. The policy will be posted on the School Committee website.

- **Vote on Systemwide Goals**

David Fleishman presented an updated draft of the Systemwide Goals adding more specifics and including timelines for the outcomes and measurements. The Committee voted approval of the Goals.

- **Vote re: Payroll/Contract Authorization Signatures**

The Committee voted to assign Claire Sokoloff and Reenie Murphy as the two School Committee members designated to sign payroll and authorize contracts from January 1, 2011 until December 31, 2011.

- **Communications/School Committee Subcommittee & Liaison Updates**

Reenie Murphy mentioned two community forums scheduled in January regarding the budget: 1/20 and 1/27 at a north and south side location. Confirmation and specific logistics will be forthcoming. She also mentioned that the district will be publishing a Performance Report this spring.

Summary
1/24/11 School Committee Meeting

- **Superintendent's Report**

David Fleishman explained the process used for calling off school in inclement weather. He makes the best decision possible based on all the information he receives from City employees directly involved in snow removal regarding weather and road conditions and at a given time, has to make the call. While not everyone may always agree with his decision, he noted that safety is always the most important factor.

- **Mathematics Survey: Mathematics Assistance Beyond the Classroom**

Mary Eich, Mathematics Coordinator, Cindy Bergan, Mathematics Dept. Head – Newton North High School, Steve Rattendi, Mathematics Dept. Head – Newton South High School, and Bobbi Gerlits, Program Evaluation Specialist, addressed the Committee on this topic. A survey was conducted in the spring of 2009 of 9th and 12th grade students to gather information about the assistance they received in mathematics outside the regular school day. This was conducted to address community questions regarding the extent to which students in honors mathematics courses received private tutoring and/or enrichment. Results indicated that the majority of students in those courses did not receive paid private tutoring or enrichment programs during elementary, middle or high school. These results are consistent with the 1997 Newton South Student Survey, the 2004 Mathematics Curriculum Parent Survey, and the 2008 Newton South Student Survey. The report included complete information on the survey methods and findings including a copy of the survey document.

- **Elementary Mathematics Coach Program Evaluation**

Sharon DeCarlo, Executive Director of Instructional Programs, and Paul Stein, Deputy Superintendent, presented this report written by Bobbi Gerlits. The Elementary Math program began in 2007 in six schools and grew to include 10 schools by the 2009-2010 school year. The program evolved out of the mathematics curriculum review process, which recommended coaches to train and support teachers in the daily work of math education. It was started at the elementary level to increase student achievement by supporting teachers in the implementation of new materials and instructional strategies, with an emphasis on differentiated instruction. The evaluation design was explained and the outcome indicates that the program has had a positive impact on both student performance and teacher practice. The specifics are outlined in the report.

- **Preliminary Budget Discussion**

Sandy Guryan, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Administrative Officer, presented the Preliminary FY12 Budget Update. The memo provided a summary of the current budget development process and options being considered for the proposed budget, which will be presented on March 7th. The allocated revenue increase for the schools is \$2.6 million (1.6% increase from FY11). Currently, a \$6.5 million budget gap is forecasted for FY12. She described the process for how they build budget. Moving forward, her department, central administration and the principals will be developing proposals aimed at generating additional revenues, reducing services, creating efficiencies and restructuring programs. Some examples include increased fees, new fees, new practices within the operational area to generate efficiencies and cost savings, reductions across grade levels, with efforts to minimize the impact in grades K-2, proposals for limited redistricting, reduction in breadth of program, and reviewing the Student Services area for any possible efficiencies.

- **Facilities Discussion**

Sandy Guryan presented the update on facilities. There is no expected exemption from the sprinkler requirement for the projects, as discussed at the last meeting, but possibly an extension of time if granted through an appeal process. The cost estimates for the sprinkler systems in each of the buildings under consideration for renovation and/or additions are included in the report. As a result of these costs, it is necessary to revise the proposal for short-term space modifications. Four options were presented. Given the fixed budget of \$5 million for short-term space needs, it is likely that the recommendation will be to address 1-3 elementary schools with modular classrooms and sprinkler systems while continuing the design process for Day. Remaining elementary modulars will stay in consideration for future years depending on enrollment and budget constraints. Committee members asked for consideration of using some FY12 CIP budget for sprinkler installation if necessary.

- **Vote to Certify Local Funding Appropriation re: Green SOI Submission**

In order to complete the necessary paperwork for submission to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Green Repair Program for the replacement of the Bowen Elementary School roof and the second boiler for Williams Elementary School, the Committee voted to authorize the funding of \$114,234 from the Charter Maintenance account for the boiler. The funding for the Bowen project was voted on in the FY11 CIP.

- **Vote to Approve Donation**

The Committee approved a \$100 donation from Lueders Environmental, Inc.

- **Vote to Approve Grant**

The Committee voted to approve the grants totaling \$25,157 (Race to the Top, Big Yellow School Bus).

Summary
2/14/11 School Committee Meeting

- **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent David Fleishman made the following announcements:

- 1) The formation of the Countryside Task Force is complete. Their charge is to examine the issue of available space for students in light of a growing population and limited physical resources.
- 2) They are in the process of interviewing for the Director of Information Technology. Lincoln-Eliot and Underwood Elementary School principal interviews are also taking place and they have just begun the search process for Cabot.
- 3) Paul Stein's appointment as the new Superintendent for the Wayland Public Schools was acknowledged, with both congratulations to Paul but a great loss for Newton.

- **Fiscal & Operational Report**

Sandy Guryan, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Administrative Officer, presented highlights of the fiscal and operational status of the school system. As of January 31st, the district has spent \$85.1 million (51% of the annual budget), with an estimate of a year-end positive balance of \$4,733. The forecast for unemployment has decreased since last month, but is still over budget by \$250,000. The health insurance forecast remains stable. Expenses in student services, including special education (SPED), are up slightly since last month, but less than previous months and are summarized in detail in the report. There is a \$263,000 surplus in the operations accounts (\$66,000 greater than last month), with continued savings in custodial salaries and overtime. Snow removal from school rooftops has been a priority over the past two weeks and as of the end of the week the contractor had cleared over 100,000 square feet. Utilities are over budget in electricity by \$266,000 due in part to higher than budgeted usage at Newton North High School. There remains a \$292,000 surplus in natural gas and small savings in heating oil, water and sewer.

- **SPED – co-taught classes**

The following staff were present to talk about this year's experience with co-taught classes: Judy Levin-Charns, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Robin Fabiano, Co-Director of Elementary Student Services, Maura Tynes, Co-Director of Elementary Student Services, Emily Ostrower, Countryside Elementary School Principal, Jennifer Greico, Countryside grade 5 general education teacher, Kimberly Hermes, Countryside grade 5 SPED teacher, Mark Springer, Mason-Rice Elementary School Principal, Pek-hu Liu, Mason-Rice grade 5 general education teacher, and Kim Citrin, Mason-Rice grade 5 SPED teacher. The process for selecting students was explained. The importance of choosing and matching the appropriate teachers and providing strong professional development was emphasized. Having two teachers in the classroom allows for more interaction for all students. They are able to differentiate instruction and work together. Children in these classes are doing excellent and are showing academic and social growth and independence. They are no longer being pulled out of classes for services. Many previously were in classes where they struggled and had behavioral and learning issues. The environment in these classes has changed and there have been no incidents this year. Students are learning from one another, which is a very powerful approach. Parents report positively at Individual Educational Plan (IEP) meetings. Progress reports from the IEPs of children in the program at Countryside show improvements in benchmarks and goals, and all students are on track. Data collected from both the regular and co-taught 5th grade classes at Mason-Rice indicate similar progress. More data will be tracked as time progresses. While there have been

challenges and a great deal of hard work to make these programs successful, the overall opinion of staff and parents is that they have been extremely positive. They are energized and excited by the outcomes and want to expand this for next year. In the future, the number of interns and technology needs are two areas that will need attention, as well as increasing the amount of professional development.

- **SPED – Assistive Technology**

Karen Clay, Instructional Technology Specialist, Newton South High School, and Karen Janowski, Assistive Technology Specialist, Student Services, addressed Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and demonstrated some examples of how assistive technology (AT) is being used in the classroom through a PowerPoint presentation. UDL is a framework for ensuring access, participation and progress in the general education curriculum for a more diverse range of students. It provides learners with multiple means of acquiring information and knowledge and demonstrating what they know. Diverse learning can be engaged through small groups, project based work, movement, and games as a few examples. Some models of the technology include PowerPoint, websites, podcasts, wikis, and social networking. AT is any item, equipment, or system used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities in order to remove obstacles to success. These modes can be through communication, visual, or mobile and provide alternative ways to demonstrate learning while promoting independence and can range from very low tech to cutting edge technology.

- **Class Size Report**

Sandy Guryan gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the highlights of the Class Size Report. Average class sizes are 22.3 at the elementary level (22.0 increase from last year), 21.7 at the middle schools (same as last year), and 21.6 at the high schools (21.3 increase from last year). She reviewed the trends in average class size at all levels over the past nine years and average team size at middle schools for the past five. Also included was the following: distribution of classes containing less than 20 students and equal to or greater than 25 at all levels; a comparison of middle school average team and class size and team size by grade; a comparison of high school average class size and average number of courses taken per student.

- **Facilities Discussion**

Michael Cronin, Chief of Operations, presented this report. As requested by the Committee at the last meeting, the report outlines FY12 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) proposals to clarify potential funds that could be used for required sprinkler systems in proposed school renovations and modulars. While all the projects are important, there is some flexibility in the list to achieve the \$725,000 needed if that is the desire of the Committee. Several Committee members expressed concern that this area takes constant hits. It was also acknowledged that the CIP has been funded for \$1.75 million annually on a consistent basis for the past several years, which has been very helpful, and it is hoped that this will continue.

Discussion of Newton Schools Foundation (NSF) Naming Rights Project

Mary Conway, NSF Development Director, and Liz Richardson, presented the proposal to create a naming rights project to generate additional revenue to support the fundraising work of the NSF. The request calls for selling naming rights to the 891 auditorium seats at the high schools, which would allow for an inscribed plaque to be placed on the back of the seats. These will be sold at a variety of price points beginning at \$150 and increasing based on proximity to the stage. Once approved, the campaign can begin within 1-2 months. They estimate the first revenue cycle (6 months – 100 seats) to generate \$15,000 and the second cycle (end of 1 year – 300 seats) to generate an additional \$45,000. The plan of action

includes surveying parents, alumni and community members to gauge appropriate prices for the seats, establishing a committee to assist with the initiative, identifying a vendor to create the plaques, publicizing the project, and establishing an on-line purchasing program through the NSF website. This is their first attempt at establishing more in-depth campaigns of increasing size and complexity to generate additional revenue for the school system. It was noted that there are many community members who have expertise in this area and have offered their services pro-bono. They also want to be respectful of the process and previous work conducted by another group regarding naming rights at Newton North High School. There was a question regarding whether the funds raised will be strictly for the arts/theater programs or other areas as well, such as technology, which has been the main focus of the work of the NSF and the need for some type of road map to clarify the process. It was noted that this is a new endeavor and will take time to evolve, but clearly a first step in the right direction. They will need to address the issues raised to the best of their ability prior to any decision making process.

- **Vote re: E-Rate Reimbursement**

The Committee voted to approve the request for \$235,232 for school technology purchases from the 2010/2011 e-rate reimbursement funds, to be used to upgrade the wireless network at Newton South High School, and to ask the Mayor to docket this before the Board of Aldermen for approval.

- **Vote to Approve Grants**

The Committee voted to approve the grants totaling \$110,684 (Title I Carry Over, Village Bank – Innovation Lab Bus).

- **Communications/School Committee Subcommittee & Liaison Updates**

Reenie Murphy updated the Committee on the status of the Newton North High School project. They are slightly behind in the demolition process. They anticipate beginning construction on the athletic fields by June. They do not expect the parking lot to be completed when school begins next fall, but hopefully shortly thereafter.

Margie Ross Decter talked about the recent meeting with their legislative delegation regarding the FY12 budget. It is their hope that the Chapter 70 and Circuit Breaker funding will remain in place and that they will have some solutions around health care proposals soon.